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Obama presses tax cut extension



WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama chastised Republican lawmakers Monday for failing to act to extend a cut in payroll taxes set to expire at the end of the year.

In comments at the White

House, Obama said Republicans were blocking the measure to avoid allowing a hike in taxes to a small group of high income earners which would offset the costs of the tax cut extension.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, meanwhile, said the Democrats proposal for a tax increase on millionaires to pay for the payroll tax cuts would be scaled back, in hopes of getting Republicans on board.

Obama said the payroll tax

cut represents around \$1,000 a year for the average middle class family and will end at the end of December.

"If Congress fails to renew this tax cut before then, that same family will see a tax hike of about \$1,000 a year," he said.

"There aren't many folks either in the middle class or those trying to get into the middle class who can afford to give up \$1,000. Not right now. That's why Congress must act."

Putin majority cut despite 'slanted' polls

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian strongman Vladimir Putin on Monday suffered the worst election setback of his career as the majority of his ruling party was scythed back in polls marred by claims of serial violations.

Despite the failure of the ruling United Russia party to win even half the vote, monitors said the polls had been

slanted in its favour and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said there were "serious concerns".

The contentious vote sparked vast opposition rallies in Moscow and the second city of Saint Petersburg with police saying 300 people were arrested in Moscow alone, including popular anti-corruption blogger

Alexei Navalny.

"Russia without Putin," the demonstrators cried.

Police said they arrested about 100 others at the Saint Petersburg rally, which was not authorised.

While United Russia has managed to keep a much-reduced absolute majority, it appears Putin's once invincible popularity is on the wane ahead of his planned return to the Kremlin in 2012.

United Russia obtained 238 seats in the 450-seat State Duma in Sunday's polls, down sharply from the 315 seats it won in the last polls in 2007, election commission chief Vladimir Churov told reporters.

"The word 'Putin' has lost its magic force," concluded analyst Yuri Korgunyuk of the INDEM research institute. "These elections brought him nothing good."

This was the first time that Putin or his party had endured a decline in support in an election. United Russia has also lost the majority of two-thirds required to pass changes to the constitution. The party only managed to win 49.35 percent of the vote, down sharply from over 64 percent in 2007.

Friday nights are full of surprises at Paseo Herencia during the holiday season



Paseo Herencia knows this is a hectic time as harried shoppers seek gifts for loved ones, and are doing their best to make it fun and keep up that special spirit of the season. (see story on pg 2)

Pre-clearance and Pre-inspection in Aruba for travel to Europe - a welcome proposition!

In view of the fact that many people travel to Holland and other countries in Europe from Aruba, the Prime Minister of Aruba decided to explore the possibility for a similar pre-clearance - pre-inspection facility such as is in place for the US, for travel to Europe from Aruba. (read story on pg 2)

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Pre-clearance and Pre-inspection in Aruba for travel to Europe - a welcome proposition!

For many years, Aruba has pre-clearance and pre-inspection facilities for travel to the United States. Aruba is among the few countries in the world to enjoy this facility.

For Latin-American countries Aruba is a sort of hub in their travels to the United States. Aruba has allocated a sizeable area on our airport to the American immigration and customs services so they can operate efficiently as they provide the pre-clearance and pre-inspection services to travelers to the US.

In view of the fact that many people travel to Holland and other countries in Europe from Aruba, the Prime Minister of Aruba decided to explore the possibility for a similar pre-clearance – pre-inspection facility such as is in place for the US, for travel to Europe from Aruba.

It was in this context that the Prime Minister met with drs. Loes Mulder, general director of IND and Mr. Gerritsen to explore the possibilities for such a facility here. Prime Minister Eman explained in detail how the American pre-clearance and pre-inspection process function on Aruba for those traveling to the US from Aruba. Mr. Gerritsen

was in Aruba just a week ago and paid a visit to the American facility on the Reina Beatrix Airport, hence was very cognizant of how the facility functions here.

According to Eman, the pre-inspection in Aruba for flights to Europe should not be a difficult matter to set up in view of the fact that the passports are the same and that the conditions for travel are the same as that of Aruba's. One matter that must be guaranteed at all cost is the privacy of all travelers. Pre-clearance, according to Eman would automatically follow the pre-inspection process.

After an indepth discussion of Aruba's petition, Mr. Mulder showed much interest in the proposition and indicated that he did not see too many barriers for Aruba getting such a facility. The function of the 'gateway' of Aruba to Europe and Latin and Central America also plays a mayor role in the decision that must be taken. Undoubtedly, with respect to the growing economies of Colombia and Brazil, the introduction of a pre-clearance and pre-inspection facility from Aruba is of utmost importance.

Friday nights are full of surprises at Paseo Herencia during the holiday season



the musical groups performing from 8:00 p.m. on in the Plaza Padu.

Last week gasps were heard as mannequins in the windows of Aqua Bendita, La Coste and New Balance suddenly came alive to smile and blow a kiss to curious youngsters, and the mall's resident paiso made balloon sculptures to delight them. Nobushi offered a stunning array of sushi and other specialties for shoppers to sample, and next Friday, it will be one of the other fine restaurants that line the central plaza.

Paseo Herencia knows this is a hectic time as harried shoppers seek gifts for loved ones, and are doing their best to make it fun and keep up that special spirit of the season.

Families and friends wishing some seasonal spirit and to find great gifts at bargain prices are flocking to Paseo Herencia Mall in Palm Beach on Friday nights. Since they first lit their trees on November 11, mall management has discovered the festive atmosphere of the shopping center and their seasonal entertainment is making a Friday evening at Paseo Herencia a new holiday tradition.

The wealth of eateries housed within the mall makes it easy to meet for dinner and then make a night of it; their roster of exclusive

shops are offering great deals with sidewalk sales every week, and there is always something new to entertain and delight shoppers strolling Paseo's corridors, aside from



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Haute Cuisine in Palm Beach? Very AMUSE-ing!



Patrick and Yvette welcome you

Our taste testers at THE MORNING NEWS have just enjoyed the most amazing, amusing dining experience, conveniently located in Palm Beach, in a cozy, attractive bistro at the Playa Linda Resort. Chef Patrick and his wife Ivette welcome you to Amuse, their French inspired bistro, where they share their passion for fine food and the classic art of cooking, enhanced with a dash of Caribbean flare.

Patrick has opened his own place after years of establishing the reputation of some of Aruba's finest restaurants. He is adamant about creating his sauces and

specialties strictly from scratch; nothing is out of the box or can and all ingredients are fresh—he even grows his own herbs and spices, and believe it or not, churns his own fresh made ice cream daily! Imagine a sumptuous desert of the creamiest Red Wine Ice Cream served up with a rich, moist, brownie, or Pineapple Carpaccio with fresh churned Cinnamon Ice Cream, and you have a finish for your dinner that will have you returning again the next day to try one of his other remarkable specialties.

Patrick is well aware that a memorable meal is a feast for all the senses, and his dishes are as pleasing to the eye as they are to the palate and your wallet. One would

expect to pay very high prices for such effort, but their menu is quite reasonably priced. Amuse also provides the option of selecting a dish in main course or half plate, appetizer size, which is very nice if you would prefer to taste a wide sample of their delectable offerings. The restaurant also prides itself on an excellent wine cellar to provide the perfect pairing for the gourmet food. Menus change to some degree with the seasons, taking advantage of what is fresh and best for the time of year.



Amuse is named for the tradition of an "amuse-bouche" a chef's se-



lection for something special to tantalize the taste buds.

This past Sunday, Patrick and Ivette celebrated their first anniversary at Playa Linda Beach Resort, and are sharing the occasion with all their patrons over this coming week. Patrick has prepared a special amuse-bouche, which fortunate diners can enjoy, compliments of the house, for this week only.

Amuse is open daily for

A beautiful and romantic setting

dinner from 5:30 to 10:30 PM. However, if wishing to dine at peak hours, Yvette recommends calling 586-9949 for reservations well ahead; they are happy to take walk-ins anytime before 7:30 PM. The charming logistics of the bistro allows patrons to enjoy the al fresco ambiance of a Parisian sidewalk café while still being protected from the weather; it is rightfully becoming quite a popular place to savor fine dining combined with Aruba's tropical ambiance.



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Sinterklaas (St.Nikolaas) receives a warm welcome in the mainstreet of Oranjestad



Last Saturday, Sinterklaas and his Zwarte Piets visited

the mainstreet of Oranjestad. Shoppers with their kids were delighted to be entertained by the Holy Man and his Piets.

Although he is usually referred to as Sinterklaas, he is also known as De Goedheiligman (The Good Holy Man), Sint Nicolaas or simply as De Sint.

He is celebrated annually on Saint Nicholas' eve (5 December). The Zwarte Piets (his helpers) have roughly the same relationship to the Dutch Saint Nicolas that the elves have to America's Santa Claus.

Sinterklaas and his Black Pete usually carry a bag which contains candy for

nice children and a roe, a chimney sweep's broom made of willow branches, used to scare the naughty children.

MAMBO (the association of merchants in the mainstreet of Oranjestad) set up various stages, and stores prepared fully for this event, specially organised for the local kids.

Sint and his Piets even went as far as dancing the Macarena for their

younf fans.

The mainstreet was packed with people taking advantage of the tremendous sales and discounts offered for the Christmas Season.

MAMBO wishes to thank all shoppers, locals as well as tourists for the support given to the stores in the mainstreet.

MAMBO also invited everyone to visit their "Christmas Village" set up together with the Government of Aruba to make the mainstreet more pleasant and easier for the Christmas flow of shoppers.

Marisol Angela is the big winner of Afl. 50.000 cash with DIGICEL campaign



Last Sunday, Marisol Angela was left speechless when her the call of Digicel giving her the good news that she was the winner of the grand prize of Afl. 50.000 cash in Digicel's "Top up & Win" campaign.

The happy winner received her prize on Sunday during the celebration of Sinterklaas at Digicel San Nicolas.

Digicel launched this campaign in the month of August during which Digicel give away no less then Afl. 180.000 in prizes.

To participate all Prepaid

clients had to do was recharge their cellular phones with Afl. 10, 25, or 50, and automatically they were added to participate to win one of the 200 prizes of credits or the weekly cash prize of Afl. 1000. Besides that they also qualified to participate to win the big prize of Afl. 50.000.

All Postpaid clients had to do was pay their bill before the 29th of the month during the campaign to participate to win the prize of Afl. 2500 every month and also to have a chance to win the big prize of Afls. 50.000.

Digicel was very happy to be able to make one of their clients so happy in this end of the year season and to be able to give back to their clients who has shown them support during the whole year.

Photo depicts as Digicel's GM is handing over the big check of afl. 50.000 to Marisol Angela accompanied by family members who were also at hand to help her celebrate.

'Hugo' is me, Scorsese says of new film

(AFP)--Martin Scorsese leaves the tough guy world far behind with his latest film "Hugo", a 3D fantasy set in pre-war Paris about an orphan and a toymaker - as well as about himself, the US director said Monday.

"Hugo", which hit US screens last month, is at once a warming Christmas carol and a cinephile's tribute to one of the art form's founding fathers, the Frenchman Georges Melies, a real-life magician turned experimental filmmaker.

"As I was making the film, more and more people kept telling me: 'That's you'," Scorsese told a press conference in Paris. "And ultimately by the time we had finished editing, there was no doubt.

"'C'est moi'" (It's me), he quipped in French, picking up on the line by the 19th-century writer Gustave Flaubert who famously proclaimed the same of his seminal work Emma Bovary.

Scorsese adapted the movie from a best-selling illustrated novel by US author Brian Selznick, "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" -- which in turn was inspired by a study of Melies' collection of lost automata.

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Subway Employees say a big Thank You

According to Selimah Maduro, Marketing Manager of Subway Aruba, during the past days their office and their employees have been receiving many calls from friends and clients of Subway inquiring about the well-being of their employees and expressing their concern for everyone, relative to the terrible accident which occurred at their Savaneta restaurant. Maduro says, "...We are very grateful that so many people has shown concern for our team mates....Thank you very much!"

Subway management informs their clients that, because of the unfortunate accident of last Thursday where a truck destroyed the Savaneta restaurant in a traffic accident, that this restaurant will be closed until further notice.

Subway expressed thanks



to God that no one in the restaurant was hurt in the accident. To their faithful

clients of the Savaneta restaurant, Selimah Maduro extends a warm welcome to

visit their Subway Santa Cruz or Subway Cura Cabay restaurants. These are the

restaurants closest to those living in the San Nicolaas area. These restaurants also offer the same services and fresh healthy products prepared in front of you in their restaurants.

They expect to reopen the Subway Alhambra restaurant very soon once the renovation and expansion process is complete. They look forward to continuing their service to their clients in that area as well. Subway is the largest fast food restaurant chain on Aruba, and has developed an impressive reputation for excellent, hygienic service; and for their superb healthy and fresh sandwiches. Subway's restaurant staff is also exceptionally friendly and amiable people, which makes their service even more enjoyable.

Photo depicts Subway Savaneta after the accident.

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International News

Belgium ends political crisis as new cabinet formed



Party members vote during a congress of Belgium's Christian Democrats party on December 3. The party approved the coalition agreement sealed on November 30, leading the way to a new government.

BRUSSELS (AFP)-Belgium's incoming Socialist prime minister, Elio Di Rupo, and his five coalition partners have agreed on the make-up of a cabinet to be sworn in by King Albert II on Tuesday, political sources said.

The swearing in by the monarch will bring an end to the country's longest political crisis in history, which after 18 months without a government left Belgium increasingly vulnerable to pressure from financial markets.

Di Rupo is to hand his list of 12 ministers to Albert II late Monday before the swearing-in ceremony the next day.

The 60-year-old politician,

a career politician born into a family of Italian farmers who migrated to work in the coalmines, will be the first French-speaking premier in more than three decades in language-divided Belgium, and the first Socialist at the helm since 1974.

He will also be Europe's second openly gay head of government after Iceland's premier.

After a June 2010 election failed to produce a decisive victor, the country's feuding politicians, who are split both politically and by Belgium's widening language divide, were unable to strike a coalition deal for months.

Di Rupo for weeks has been finessing a government platform for six parties across the political spectrum with enough combined parliament seats to govern.

With the debt crisis spreading across the eurozone like wildfire, bickering politicians put their quarrels aside last week after Belgium's borrowing costs soared last week and ratings giant Standard & Poor's cut its credit score.

The downgrade jolted politicians into agreeing an austerity budget that aims to balance the books by 2015.

Di Rupo's cabinet includes six portfolios for other French-speakers from southern Walloonia and six for Dutch-speakers from wealthier northern Flanders, which accounts for 60 percent of the 10.5 million population.

The prestige foreign affairs portfolio would go to current caretaker finance minister Didier Reynders, a French-speaking liberal.

He would trade places with current foreign minister Steven Vanackere, a Dutch-speaking liberal.

Absent from the talks and the coalition however is Belgium's biggest party, the separatist Flemish N-VA led by Bart De Wever.

De Wever has dismissed the coalition as "a minority government for Flanders, imposing cuts that a majority of Flemish will have to pay for."

Many in wealthier Dutch-speaking Flanders feel their taxes are financing the poorer French-speaking south.

Di Rupo will outline the coalition 180-page platform to parliament on Wednesday, with the new premier then free to join this week's crucial European Union summit.

Chile to pay Pinochet victims' families \$3 million

SANTIAGO (AFP) - Chile will pay some \$3 million to families of 48 victims of dictator Augusto Pinochet's regime who were given remains erroneously identified as their missing loved ones, officials said Monday.

The State Defense Council, which represents the government in courts, announced the settlement providing up to \$20,000 in disbursements per wrongly identified victim.

In 2006, several families were informed of mistakes in the identification of remains found in 1991 in Santiago cemetery tombs that had initially been confirmed as belonging to a relative killed under Pinochet's 1973-1990 rule.

Several of the families were ordered to return remains they had buried.

"They essentially relived

the disappearance a second time. The pain came back and there were even people who died of a broken heart," said Lorena Pizarro, president of the AFDD group for victims' families, as she welcomed the government's move.

In the wake of outrage over the case, the remains of 124 bodies from Patio 29 of the General Cemetery in Santiago were sent abroad for sophisticated tests, while Chile's legal and medical officials reviewed their protocols.

Some 45 Patio 29 bodies have been successfully identified so far.

Around 3,225 people were murdered or disappeared for political reasons under Pinochet, while about 37,000 were tortured or illegally held, according to figures recently reviewed by an official commission.



CHIA, Colombia : Handout picture released by the Colombian presidency showing Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos (3rd R-in red) in the Bogota river, in Chia, Cundinamarca Department, on December 5, 2011. At least 96 people have died as a result of Colombia's second annual rainy season, according to the Red Cross. State weather monitors have warned that the heavy rains, which began in September, will last through the first months of 2012 due to the cyclical La Nina weather phenomenon.

AFP PHOTO

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Int'l News**Netherlands
to apologise
for 1947
Indonesia
massacre**

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Dutch government will formally apologise to Indonesia for the Dutch army's 1947 executions of scores of people, the foreign ministry said Monday.

Dutch troops fighting to retain Indonesia as a colony swept into the Javan village of Rawagede and carried out the mass executions. Dutch officials say 150 people were killed, but a support group says the death toll was 431.

In September, a Hague-based court ruled in favour of seven widows and a survivor of the massacre in the village east of Jakarta, known today as Balongsari. An eighth widow in the case died earlier.

The Netherlands agreed to pay 180,000 euros (\$242,000) total in compensation.

"The Dutch ambassador to Indonesia will on Friday 9 December apologise in the name of the Dutch government for what happened," foreign ministry spokesman Aad Meijer said, adding that the ambassador would address residents during a ceremony in the village.

"I hope these (apologies) will help parents close this difficult episode in their lives," Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal said in a statement.

The Netherlands has previously expressed regret over the killings and their illegality, but never formally apologised.

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LatAm holds Mexico summit on crime, drug trafficking

MERIDA (AFP) - The presidents of Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Colombia and various Central American nations took part Monday in a summit seeking better regional cooperation on fighting crime and drug trafficking.

President Alvaro Colom of Guatemala was one of the speakers to praise the efforts of the two-decade old Tuxtla Group summit, saying that their mutual cooperation al-

lows member nations to "leave our differences by the wayside, and work together for the development of our region."

The Tuxtla Group, which has had various names over the years, was created in 1991 as a forum for setting and advancing shared economic and development goals of member countries.

Several countries which are not members of the Tuxtla Group sent observer

delegations to the proceedings in Merida, Mexico.

Chile's president Sebastian Pinera, who was one of several leaders attending the meeting under observer status, stressed that drug traffickers are "a formidable and despised enemy" who will only be defeated through their combined regional efforts.

Other topics on the agenda included efforts to harmonize electronic communication and road transport across the

region, and the need for investments to modernize its aging infrastructure systems.

The Latin American leaders were expected to close out the summit later Monday signing a joint declaration drafted last October in Tuxtla, capital of Chiapas state in Mexico.

Colombia in recent years has succeeded in slowing what had been the unrelenting barrage of deaths linked to drug cartels.

But two other countries in the regional group, Mexico and Guatemala, find themselves in the grip of brutal drug violence, as ruthless cartels fight for dominion over the drug corridors leading to the lucrative US market.

In Mexico, more than 45,000 people have died in drug-related violence since President Felipe Calderon launched a military crackdown on organized crime five years ago involving tens of thousands of troops.

Health & Living

Britain to 'open up' state health to industry: PM

LONDON (AFP)- British Prime Minister David Cameron was to unveil plans which could allow patient records held by the nationalised health service to be shared with private firms in a bid to boost its ailing economy.

Cameron was set to make a speech outlining the government's strategy for the life-science industry, in which he was to insist on "opening up" the National Health Service (NHS) in order to make health a "huge magnet" for economic growth.

"The most crucial, fundamental thing we're doing is opening up the NHS to new ideas," he was to add.

This corporation could include allowing private life-science companies to use state-funded hospitals and to access anonymous NHS patient records, Britain's press reported Sunday.

Andy Burnham, health spokesman for the opposition

Labour Party, promised to fight the proposals, saying: "We will not allow David Cameron to throw away essential safeguards in his desperation to develop a credible industrial strategy."

Privacy activist Nick Pickles also criticised the plans, adding: "It is for patients, not the government, to decide what happens with their medical information."

"Britain has the potential to become a powerhouse in the world's life sciences industry," a government source told the Sunday Telegraph.

"We want to see much closer collaboration between the NHS and life-science companies - not just greater data-sharing, but more clinical trials in hospitals," added the source.

Britain's life-sciences industry employs more than 160,000 people and has an annual turnover of around £50 billion.

S.Africa ponders sex education for 10-yr-olds

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Children as young as 10 could be taught about safe sex in South African schools as the country battles to contain pre-teen pregnancy and HIV infection, the department of health said on Monday.

Health and education officials are scratching their heads over when kids are old enough to hear about the birds and the bees in an education plan due next year.

"Is 10 too early or too late? We want to start as early as possible," said education ministry spokeswoman Hope Mokgathe.

A health ministry report on HIV infection among pregnant women published last week showed an increase in infec-

tions among young girls aged 10-14 in 2010. Almost 10 percent of the 121 future young mothers carried the virus.

"A number of young kids are falling pregnant, kids as young as 11 to 12, contracting sexually-transmitted diseases," health ministry spokesman Fidel Hadebe told AFP.

In September, a primary school in Port Elizabeth, in the Eastern Cape Province sparked outrage amongst parents after giving contraception by injection to school girls.

A plan to distribute condoms at public schools was also scrapped two years ago amidst accusations it would only encourage teenagers to have sex younger.

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Hanoi must close drug rehab centres: UN expert

HANOI (AFP) - A UN expert on Monday called on communist Vietnam to close its compulsory rehabilitation centres for drug users and sex workers, which he said were expensive, ineffective and counterproductive.

Detention and compulsory treatment violate drug users' rights and raise concerns about due process, the UN special rapporteur on the right to health, Anand Grover, told reporters at the end of a 10-day mission.

"I wholeheartedly support the closure of the rehabilitation centres," Grover said, adding that detainees were forced to accept treatment and denied the right to informed consent over medical decisions.

He said his research found that the compulsory rehabilitation centres cost "far too much" to run, adding the money would be better spent on alternatives, including

methadone treatment and community-based vocational training.

"Fortunately, the government has implemented a number of pilot methadone treatment programmes," said Grover, an independent expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council.

In September, US-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a 126-page report, accusing Vietnam of holding drug users in the "forced labour" centres that, it said, fail to provide appropriate treatment and are rife with physical abuse.

Rather than getting therapy, detainees had to perform manual labour by processing cashews, farming, sewing garments or working in construction -- in violation of international law, the watchdog said.

Detainees who refused to work or contravened other

rules were subjected to beatings or "torture" including electric shock, HRW said.

Hanoi accused the watchdog of distorting the facts and described the facilities as a "humane" way to help people kick their drug addiction and prepare to return to society.

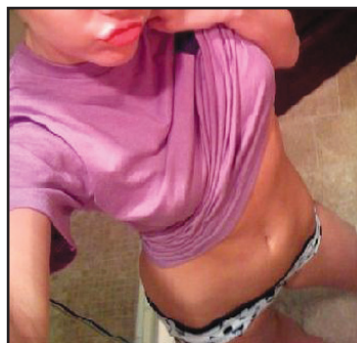
"Treatment labour" helps addicts improve their health, professional skills, and responsibilities to family and society, a government spokeswoman said at the time.

Government figures issued last year showed the country had about 150,000 drug addicts and 30,000 sex workers.

Heroin is the most commonly used illicit drug in the country of about 86 million people.

Under Vietnamese law sex workers can be detained for between three and 18 months while drug addicts can be held for up to four years in the centres, the UN says.

Fewer US teens 'sexting' than feared



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Only around 2.5 percent of teens engage in "sexting," or sending sexual images by phone or email, and few of these would violate pornography laws.

"Lots of people may be hearing about these cases discovered by schools and par-

ents because they create a furor, but it still involves a very small minority of youth," said lead author Kimberly Mitchell of the University of New Hampshire's Crimes against Children Research Center.

The study found that 2.5 percent of youth surveyed have participated in sexting in the past year, but only one percent involved images that potentially violate child pornography laws with images that showed "naked breasts, genitals or bottoms."

In a second study, researchers discovered that in most sexting cases investigated by the police, no juvenile arrest occurred.

There was an arrest in 36

percent of the cases where there were aggravating activities by youth, such as using the images to blackmail or harass other youth. In cases without aggravating elements, the arrest rate was 18 percent.

The second study was based on a national sample of 675 sexting cases collected from law enforcement agencies. The study also found that the very few teens who were subjected to sex offender registration had generally committed other serious offenses such as sexual assault.

In both studies, researchers found that sexual images of youth rarely were widely distributed online as many parents, youth, and law enforcement fear.

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Gowalla team checks into Facebook



(AFP) - The founders of Gowalla said Monday that they are winding down the location-sharing service and joining Facebook.

"We're excited to announce that we'll be making the journey to California to join Facebook!" Josh Williams, a co-founder of the Austin, Texas-based company said in a blog post.

Facebook confirmed that Gowalla co-founders Williams and Scott Raymond and other members of Gowalla would join Facebook's design and engineering teams in January.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

"In talking with the Gowalla team, we realized that we share many of the same goals: building great products that reach millions of people, making a big impact quickly, and creating new ways for people to connect and share what's going on in their lives," a Facebook spokesman said.

"While Facebook isn't ac-

quiring the Gowalla service or technology, we're sure that the inspiration behind Gowalla will make its way into Facebook over time," the spokesman said.

Williams said Gowalla, which launched two years ago, will wind down at the end of January

and the company will let users know how they can export their data and photos.

"As we move forward, we hope some of the inspiration behind Gowalla -- a fun and beautiful way to share your journey on the go -- will live on at Facebook," he said.

Like Foursquare, another popular location-based service, Gowalla lets users with GPS-equipped smartphones share their whereabouts.

Friends at Gowalla share pictures and comments from places they visit, earning "passport stamps" as souvenirs of their adventures.

Facebook last year launched Facebook Places, its first venture into offering location-based services.

With Facebook Places, members of the social network can "check-in" from restaurants, bars or other social venues and let their friends know where they are.

Sci-Tech

NASA confirms 'super-Earth' that could hold life

WASHINGTON (AFP) - In another step toward finding Earth-like planets that may hold life, NASA said Monday the Kepler space telescope has confirmed its first-ever planet in a habitable zone outside our solar system.

French astronomers earlier this year confirmed the first rocky exoplanet to meet key requirements for sustaining life. But Kepler-22b, initially glimpsed in 2009, is the first the US space agency has been able to confirm.

Confirmation means that astronomers have seen it crossing in front of its star three times. But it doesn't mean that astronomers know whether life actually exists there, simply that the conditions are right.

Such planets have the right distance from their star to support water, plus a suitable temperature and atmosphere to support life.

Spinning around its star some 600 light years away, Kepler-22b is 2.4 times the size of the Earth, putting it in class known as "super-Earths," and orbits its Sun-like star every 290 days.

Its near-surface temperature is presumed to be about 72 degrees Fahrenheit (22 Celsius). Scientists do not know, however, whether the planet is rocky, gaseous or liquid.

The planet's first "transit," or star crossover, was captured shortly after NASA launched its Kepler spacecraft in March 2009.

NASA also announced that Kepler has uncovered 1,094 more potential planets, twice the number it previously had been tracking, according to research being presented at a conference in California this week.

Kepler is NASA's first mission in search of Earth-like planets orbiting suns similar to ours, and cost the US space agency about \$600 million.

It is equipped with the largest camera ever sent into space -- a 95-megapixel array of charge-coupled devices -- and is expected to continue sending information back to Earth until at least November 2012.

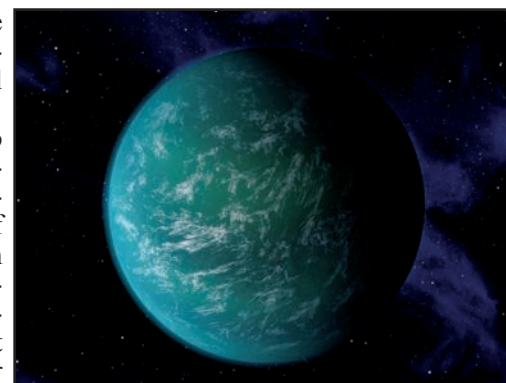
Kepler is searching for planets as small as Earth, including those orbiting stars in a warm, habitable zone where liquid water could exist on the surface of the planet.

The latest confirmed exoplanet that could support life

brings to three the total number confirmed by global astronomers.

In addition to French astronomers' confirmed finding of Gliese 581d in May, Swiss astronomers reported in August that another planet, HD 85512 b, about 36 light years away seemed to be in the habitable zone of its star.

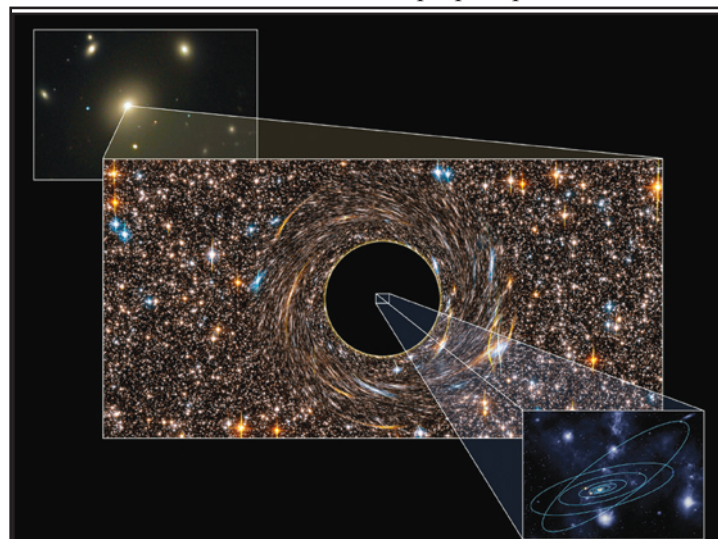
However, those two planets are "orbiting stars smaller and cooler than our Sun," NASA said in a statement, noting that Kepler-22b "is the smallest yet found to orbit in the middle of the habitable zone of a star similar to our Sun."



This NASA artist's conception illustrates Kepler-22b, a planet known to comfortably circle in the habitable zone of a sun-like star.

A total of 48 exoplanets and exomoons are potential habitable candidates, among a total of 2,326 possibilities that Kepler has identified so far.

The top rankers are listed in an online catalog that indexes bodies outside our solar system, available online at <http://phl.upr.edu>.



PARIS: Handout photo released on December 5, 2011 by Nature shows a figure depicting the immense size of the black hole discovered in the galaxy NGC 3842. NGC 3842, shown in the background image, is the brightest galaxy in a rich cluster of galaxies. The black hole is at its center and is surrounded by stars (shown as an artist's concept in the central figure). The black hole is seven times larger than Pluto's orbit. Our solar system (inset) would be dwarfed by it.

AFP PHOTO



MUMBAI: In this handout photograph released by PlanetSolar SA, the MS Turanor PlanetSolar catamaran is pictured leaving the port city of Mumbai on December 3, 2011. The crew of the boat are attempting to make the first round the world trip powered by solar energy.

AFP PHOTO



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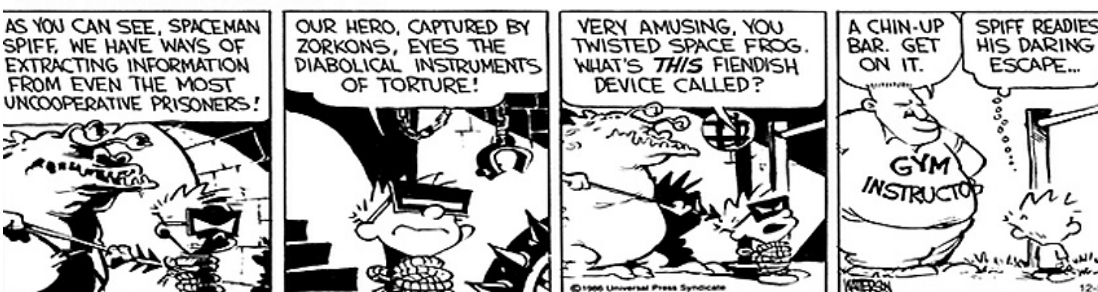
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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THE CRUX OF THE MATTER

ACROSS

1. Hillbilly's father
4. — dixit
8. International agreement
12. Mouth: prefix
13. After home or down
14. She, to Pierre
15. — annum
16. Saharan
17. Bus rider's hope
18. Lockpicker's piece
21. "— of Wine and Roses"
22. Beam
23. Go a few rounds
25. Cleo's snake
26. Flutter
29. Pennsylvania
33. "— Academic" (TV oldie)
34. Make a choice
35. TV host Trebek
36. "Nothing — the Truth" (Hope film)
37. Move earthward
39. Where Hemingway vacationed
43. Faked event
44. Wise men of the Bible
45. Part of HRH
47. Commedia dell' —
48. Go — hammer and tongs

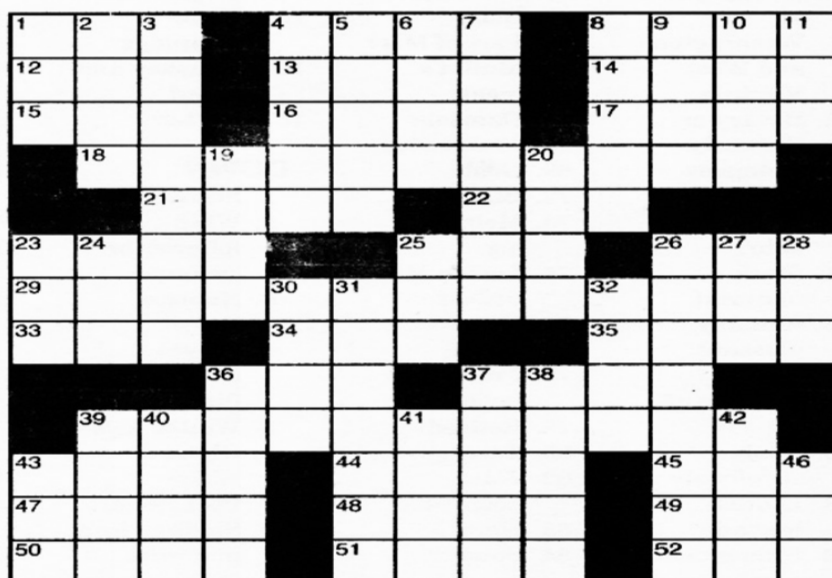
49. Cheer for Manolete
50. Bambi, for one
51. Olin of "Havana"
52. — Testa-ment

DOWN

1. Type of quiz
2. God behind the Trojans
3. Monday through Friday, for most
4. Boot-shaped nation
5. Stomata
6. Actress Loretta
7. Sign off on
8. Like Dennis

9. Away from the weather
10. Like a skeet shooter's pigeons
11. Eastern holiday
19. Cornfield array
20. Snoozes
23. Enjoy a Vail vacation
24. Andy Capp's nickname for Flo
25. Termite's cousin
26. Clamor surrounding a movie release
27. Chewed

28. John Ritter's father
30. Escorted sojourn
31. Ideal
32. Fable
36. — Rebellion (1898-1900)
37. "Oliver!" role
38. Honshu port
39. Trevino's warning
40. What procrastinators often are
41. Social event
42. Purvey
43. Snookered
46. Color of Valentine roses



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CAS MARIE
Alzheimer's Day
Care Center
Tel: 5696910

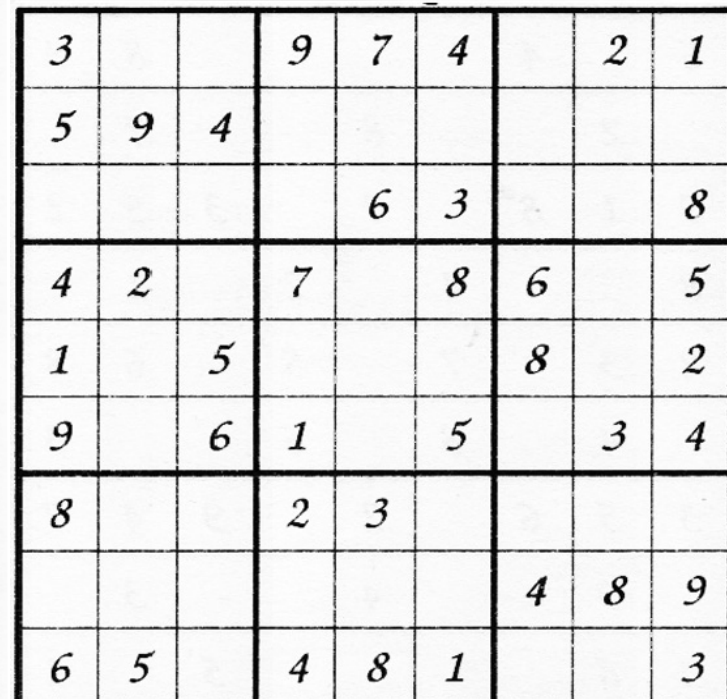
Important
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Numbers

HOSPITAL
Horacio Oduber Hospital
Tel. 5274000
EMERGENCY
Telephone 911
POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

TAXI
C.V. TAS
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In Oranjestad:
Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604
582-5447
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	9	4	1	8	7	6	3	2
6	8	7	5	9	1	2	3	4
9	5	1	6	2	3	4	8	7
7	6	8	9	4	5	1	2	3
2	1	9	8	6	3	5	7	4
8	7	6	5	9	1	2	3	4
1	9	5	2	1	8	7	6	3
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

US stocks pare gains after eurozone credit reports



NEW YORK (AFP) - US stock markets pared gains Monday on news that Germany and five other triple-A eurozone countries face the prospect of a credit downgrade.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average pulled back from triple-digit advances and rose 78.41 points (0.65 percent) to finish the day at 12,097.83.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite added 28.83 points (1.10 percent) to 2,655.76, while the broader

S&P 500-stock index advanced 12.89 points (1.03 percent) to 1,257.08.

Denting sentiment was a Financial Times report that US-based ratings firm Standard & Poor's was poised to announce later Monday that it was putting the triple-A rated Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, and Luxembourg on "creditwatch negative" due to the deepening eurozone public debt crisis.

S&P announced after the

markets closed that it had put the six top-rated countries and nine other eurozone members on "creditwatch negative" due to the deepening eurozone public debt crisis.

"Today's CreditWatch placements are prompted by our belief that systemic stresses in the eurozone have risen in recent weeks to the extent that they now put downward pressure on the credit standing of the eurozone as a whole," S&P said in a statement.

The news of the looming warning shook Wall Street sentiment.

"The retreat came from a negative reaction to the notion that Europe's AAA-rated countries could face a downgrade from analysts at S&P," Briefing.com analysts said.

Still, stocks managed to extend last week's sharp rally amid increasing optimism that Europe was heading toward a solution to the eurozone sovereign debt crisis.

Traders digested news that Germany and France, the eurozone's biggest economies, want a new European Union treaty by March with tougher budgetary rules to deal with the eurozone debt crisis.

The agreed goal came after talks between German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Monday in preparation for an EU summit Thursday and Friday.

In a further sign that Europe was coming to grips with the threat of widespread debt contagion, Italy, the zone's third-largest economy, presented a tough austerity package of spending cuts, tax hikes and pension reforms to parliament.



QATAR, Doha : Omani oil Minister Mohammad bin Hamad bin Saif al-Rumhi (L) and UAE Minister of Energy Mohamed Bin Dhaen al-Hamli attend the 20th World Petroleum Congress (WPC) in Doha on December 5, 2011. Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani reassured consuming countries that energy supplies from the Middle East will not be disrupted by political upheavals sweeping the region. AFP PHOTO

US Navy in big biofuel purchase

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Navy unveiled plans yesterday for its biggest-ever biofuel purchase as part of an effort to reduce dependence on imported oil.

US Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said the 450,000 gallons (1.7 million liters) were part of the "largest single purchase of advanced drop-in biofuel in government history." The biofuel also "comes from non-food sources and does not increase the carbon footprint."

The purchase aims to meet President Barack Obama's goal "to achieve more energy security by finding ways to lessen our dependence on oil and fossil fuels," Mabus said.

The Defense Department will purchase biofuel made

from a blend of non-food waste, including algae produced by Solazyme and used cooking oil from the Louisiana-based Dynamic Fuels, LLC, a joint venture of Tyson Foods and Syntroleum Corp.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

L	A	M	P	A	G	A	S	I	L	O
A	L	O	E	M	A	C	I	R	A	N
S	I	D	E	D	I	S	H	D	O	S
S	T	E	R	E			E	V	E	N
					L	O	S	S	E	S
C	O	N	S	E	N	T	E	T	A	T
A	L	A	I	T	A	E		E	R	A
B	E	N	D	S		T	E	M	P	E
					E	U	R	E	K	A
S	U	S	I	E		L	A	N	G	E
T	E	S	H		S	I	D	E	R	O
R	E	N	O		E	T	E		I	D
I	S	A	W		T	O	W		D	E

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency	Buying rate	Buying	Selling
12/05/2011	Code	banknotes	Cheques	Rate
U.S.A.	USD		1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG		1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD		1.750	1.770
Britain	GBP		2.770	2.830
Switzerland	CHF		1.9397	1.9477
Netherlands	EUR		2.3941	2.4181
Sweden	SEK		0.2620	0.2700
Denmark	DKK		0.3196	0.3276
Norway	NOK		0.3074	0.3154
Japan	JPY		228.42	230.72
(per 10,000)				
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Nose flash: a super shopping bag for the Clown Doctors of Aruba



A new, very colorful shopping bag is now available at three great stores on Aruba: DA, Top-1-Toys and Bruna, all three located next to each other on the Boulevard. It is a bag with a story behind it: it's a fun(d)raising bag, made by Curaçao artist Andre Nagtegaal and the proceeds will go to aid the CliniClowns and the Clown Doctors of Aruba. The work of the clowns consists of bringing rays of sunshine, getting a laugh or a smile when they visit the children's ward of the hospital, the mentally challenged kids and the elderly on the island.

The idea of the bag has come from the CliniClowns, the clowns' colleagues from our sister island Curaçao, where the bag sale has already started at Zuikertuin Mall. Each year a new, limited edition bag will come out so that people who wish to support the CliniClowns and Clown Doctors will be able to start a collection. BDO, Stradius, Refineria Isla Curaçao BV and the CliniClowns are sponsors of this fun 'collectors' item' project.

Artist Andre Nagtegaal is well-known on Curaçao and abroad. His paintings depict

typical Caribbean scenes with multicultural aspects.

The boxes with the colorful bags arrived at DA, Top-1-Toys and Bruna last Friday; a good reason to raise a glass of bubbly with the three store managers and their teams and happy president of the Clown Doctors of Aruba Peter Ballière and one of his crew of clowns.

The bags are for sale for AWG. 12,50; they surely will make an impact when filled with presents and carried by Zwarte Piet or beneath the Christmas tree.



'Hugo' is me, Scorsese says of new film



PARIS (AFP) - Martin Scorsese leaves the tough guy world far behind with his latest film "Hugo", a 3D fantasy set in pre-war Paris about an orphan and a toymaker -- as well as about himself, the US director said Monday.

"Hugo", which hit US screens last month, is at once a warming Christmas carol and a cinephile's tribute to one of the art form's founding fathers, the Frenchman Georges Melies, a real-life magician turned experimental filmmaker.

"As I was making the film, more and more people kept telling me: 'That's you'," Scorsese told a press conference in Paris. "And ultimately

by the time we had finished editing, there was no doubt.

"C'est moi" (It's me), he quipped in French, picking up on the line by the 19th-century writer Gustave Flaubert who famously proclaimed the same of his seminal work Emma Bovary.

Set in an imaginary Paris circa 1930, the film tells the story of 12-year-old Hugo Cabret, played by Asa Butterfield, who lives hidden in the walls of a Paris railway station, tasked with keeping its giant clocks wound and ticking.

Hugo crosses paths with an old toymaker played by Ben Kingsley, who turns out to be none other than Melies, now fallen on hard times. As it turns out, Hugo is trying to repair a toy robot left to him by his dead father.

Scorsese adapted the movie from a best-selling illustrated novel by US author Brian Selznick, "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" -- which in turn was inspired by a study of Melies' collection of lost automata.

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For more information about The Residences, visit our sales office located in the golf clubhouse at the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

For questions or to schedule your appointment to view a condominium, contact sales director John Kelly at (297) 583-9971 or email: sales@diviarubaresidences.com

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Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger



Aaron and Manager Marc Anthony

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet



cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner – daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

SPORT

Olympics: 2012 security budget doubled



London 2012 Olympic Stadium picture

LONDON(AFP) - The security budget for the 2012 London Olympics has doubled, a government report out Monday showed, with plans to recruit almost 14,000 extra personnel.

The operation to provide security at more than 100 venues has swollen after the decision was taken to boost staff numbers, the December 2011 Olympic Quarterly Economic Report showed.

The report stressed that the increase was not in response to a specific security threat.

The overall budget for the Games remains at £9.3 billion (\$14.5 billion, 10.8 billion euros), with £528 million so far spent.

The security cost has risen to £553 million, the figures from July to September showed, up £282 million on the 2010 spending review baseline.

Instead of the 10,000 secu-

rity officers initially planned for, there will now be 23,700, with the majority coming from a private firm. The military and volunteers will make up the rest.

The government and Games organisers have gone through a detailed analysis of the number of security staff needed, Olympics minister Hugh Robertson explained.

"As a result, to ensure a safe and secure Games, they have revised the numbers of trained staff required," he said.

"We are therefore investing additional funds in providing nearly 24,000 venue security personnel plus specialist security equipment."

Meanwhile the security budget for the opening and closing ceremonies has also effectively been doubled by an injection of £41 million from the public purse.

"London's opening and closing ceremonies are a once-

in-a-generation opportunity to showcase the very best of our country to four billion people around the world," Robertson said.

"To get the ceremonies absolutely right and boost the Games business and tourism legacy, we are putting additional investment into our ceremonies."

Last month, defence minister Philip Hammond said Britain was prepared to deploy surface-to-air missiles to protect London during the Games, shortly after the government rejected reports of US security fears.

"The government carried out a full review of security arrangements in late 2010 and remains confident the right plans are in place to deliver a safe and secure Games for all," the report out Monday said.

"The government's approach is intelligence-led and risk-based, giving the flexibility to respond to any changes between now and Games time."

"The planning assumption we have used throughout is that the Games will be delivered in the context of a 'severe' level of terrorist threat."

Security has been a key concern for all Games hosts and organisers since the 1972 Olympics in Munich when nine kidnapped Israeli athletes and four of their captors from the Palestinian Black September group, as well as a German policeman, were killed in a gun battle.

New abuse claim against late Red Sox official

BOSTON(AFP) - A man who worked in the Boston Red Sox clubhouse when he was a teenager in the 1990s said Monday that then clubhouse manager Donald Fitzpatrick, who died in 2005, sexually abused him.

At a news conference Monday, Charles Crawford said Fitzpatrick assaulted him twice inside the clubhouse at fabled Fenway Park -- once in an equipment room and once in a restroom. He was 16 at the time, and his accusation renews a scandal that the club has dealt with before.

While Fitzpatrick is dead and the statute of limitations has expired for filing lawsuits over the alleged incidents, Crawford and another Massachusetts man -- who has asked not to be identified -- are accusing Fitzpatrick and seeking

\$5 million settlements from the club.

"People need to know what happened," Crawford said. "It's still mind-boggling to me."

Crawford said he decided to come forward now after US Senator Scott Brown's revelation earlier this year that he was molested by a counselor at a summer camp when he was 10 and the more recent sexual abuse allegations made against former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky.

The scandal that rocked Penn State has been followed by an investigation into accusations of molestation against a Syracuse University assistant basketball coach.

Crawford is not the first to accuse Fitzpatrick, who pleaded guilty in Florida in 2002 to attempted sexual bat-


tery on a child under the age of 12.

The Red Sox also settled a lawsuit with seven Florida men who said Fitzpatrick molested them during the team's spring training beginning in the 1970s.

In a statement, Red Sox lawyer Daniel Goldberg said the club "have always viewed the actions of Mr. Fitzpatrick to be abhorrent."

"When the team, then under a previous ownership group, became aware of the allegations against Mr. Fitzpatrick in 1991, he was promptly relieved of his duties," Goldberg said.

He said the Red Sox did not have specific information on the two most recent allegations and would not comment further.



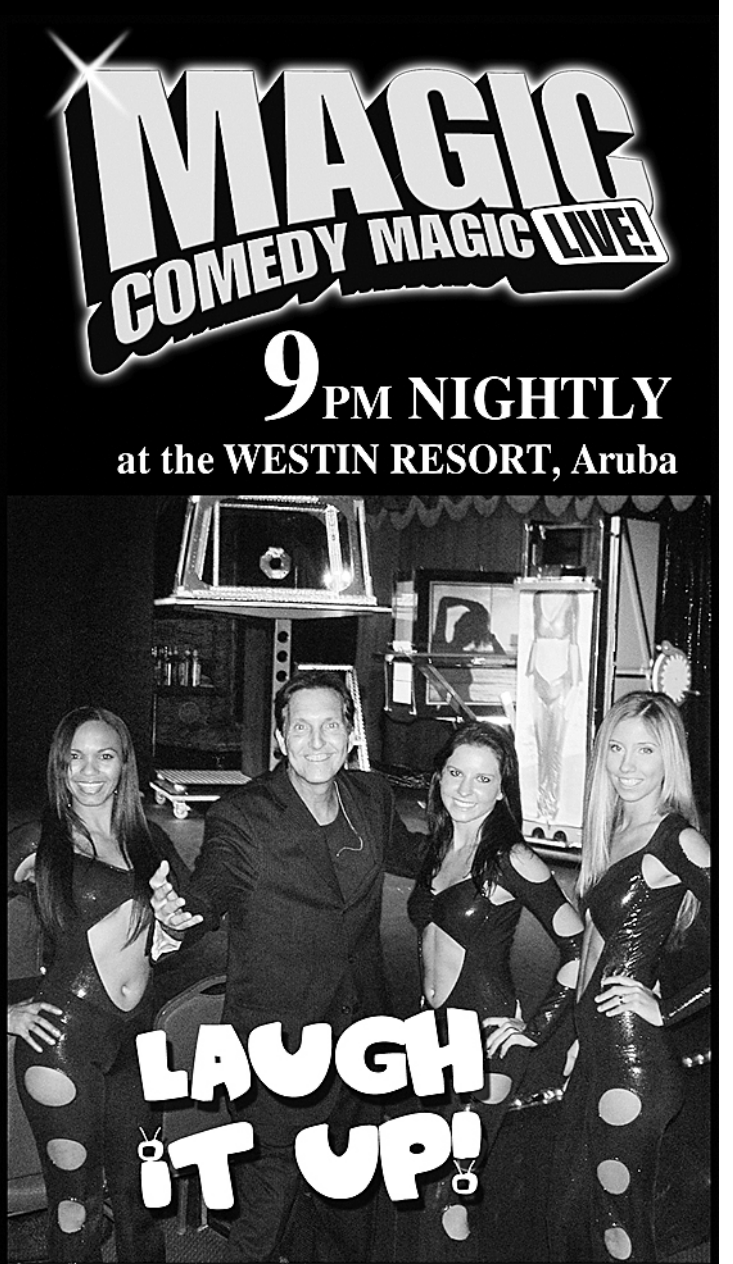
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Woods back in comfort zone with victory



US golfer Tiger Woods is all smiles while holding the championship trophy.

THOUSAND OAKS (AFP) - Two years after his own indiscretions sent his life into turmoil, Tiger Woods returned to the winner's circle on Sunday -- and found it felt just as it always had.

"It feels great," said Woods, the 14-time major champion who had not won a tournament since 2009 until capturing the \$5 million Chevron World Challenge on Sunday.

Woods had been on a win drought since revelations of his secret sex life in November of 2009 left his reputation in tatters, put his marriage on the path to divorce and sent sponsors fleeing.

Amid the uproar, Woods' game suffered and his struggles continued in 2011 as he battled to cement swing changes despite injuries that limited his playing time.

"I know it has been a while, but also for some reason it feels like it hasn't," Woods said. "Because when I was coming down the stretch there, I felt so comfortable."

Woods said he had felt it building as he took an early lead in the Australian Open last month. He finished third, but it was a solid prelude to a strong performance in America's Presidents Cup match-play triumph.

Woods, host of the 18-man Challenge event for the benefit of his charitable foundation, had led after 36 holes on Friday at Sherwood Country Club.

After he slipped one behind Zach Johnson in a wind-whipped third round, all eyes were on Woods to see if he could finally finish out a victory in the style that once made him a cross-cultural superstar.

Woods duly delivered, with a birdie-birdie finish that erased a one-shot deficit and sealed the victory.

A year ago, Woods held a

four-shot lead over Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell after the second and third rounds here, but finished runner-up in a playoff.

He and coach Sean Foley had been working to change that, but progress was slowed when Woods injured his left knee and Achilles tendon en route to a share of fourth place at the Masters last April.

He limped out of the Players Championship after nine holes in May, pulled out of the US and British Opens, then missed the cut at the PGA Championship.

Also tough, Woods acknowledged, was constantly being asked about the drought.

"Started out, 'You haven't won in six months.'"

"Then a year, year and a half, two years. So it feels good to win a golf tournament."

"But that's not the reason why I was playing. I'm not playing for you guys or anything like that. Just playing to get the 'W'. At the beginning of the week that's what I said, and I was able to get it."

Now it remains for Woods get a 'W' in an official full field event -- perhaps even his first major since he won the 2008 US Open despite serious leg injuries.

Woods said this week he has yet to confirm his schedule for 2012, but he has entered the European Tour's Abu Dhabi Golf Championship on January 26-29.

Before then, he said, he'll give himself a bit of a break.



DALLAS (AFP) - Former Chicago Cubs star Ron Santo was elected to American baseball's Hall of Fame on Monday, a year after he died of complications of bladder cancer. The third baseman won five Gold Gloves, was chosen for nine all-star games and belted 342 homers in a brilliant career. "It's really exciting because so many years that we had parties over in his house in spring training saying this is the year, I'd tell him this is the year you're going in the baseball Hall of Fame," said former Cubs teammate Billy Williams. Santo, who died at age 70, also played with diabetes, a disease that eventually cost him both his legs below the knees. Santo was chosen by the Hall's Veterans Committee, drawing 15 votes from the 16-member panel. Santo will be officially inducted into Cooperstown on July 22.



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Packers edge continued from page 16



Running back Ray Rice #27 of the Baltimore Ravens is tackled by defenders Jayme Mitchell #92, Chris Gocong #51 and Eric Hagg #27 of the Cleveland Browns at Cleveland Browns Stadium.

Houston (9-3) topped Atlanta 17-10 to stay atop the AFC South by two games over Tennessee, which kept pace by beating Buffalo 23-17.

New England (9-3) beat winless Indianapolis 31-24 to stay atop the AFC East by two games over the New York Jets, who rallied late to down Washington 34-19.

Washington's seventh loss in eight games came as Sports Illustrated reported that Redskins tight end Fred Davis and tackle Trent Williams, both starters, will

be banned for the last four games of the season for positive drug tests.

Cam Newton scored his 11th, 12th and 13th rushing touchdowns of the season to set an NFL record for such scores by a rookie quarterback in Carolina's 38-19 victory over Tampa Bay.

Dexter McCcluster caught a twice-deflected pass for a 38-yard touchdown on the last play of the first half to give Kansas City a 10-3 victory at Chicago.



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Packers edge Giants to remain unbeaten



Defenders Jimmy Smith(notes) #22 and Jameel McClain(notes) #53 of the Baltimore Ravens tackle wide receiver Jordan Norwood(notes) #10 of the Cleveland Browns at Cleveland Browns Stadium on December 4, 2011 in Cleveland, Ohio.

EAST RUTHERFORD (AFP) - Aaron Rodgers threw four touchdown passes and guided Green Bay's drive for the winning field goal to give the unbeaten Packers a 38-35 NFL victory Sunday over the New York Giants.

Mason Crosby kicked a 31-yard field goal on the final play of the game to extend Green Bay's best-ever start to 12-0 with only four victories remaining to complete an undefeated campaign.

Green Bay clinched a play-off berth with the victory and the NFC North division title when New Orleans beat Detroit 31-17. Also booking a playoff spot was San Francisco (10-2), which beat St. Louis 26-0 to seal the NFC West crown.

The Giants (6-6) stumbled to their fourth loss in a row but remained only one game behind NFC East leader Dallas, which lost 19-13 at Arizona. The Giants play Dallas

next week and took confidence from testing the perfect Packers.

"We've got to regroup," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "We really came together. We played with emotion. If we play with positive intensity, those are the things that bind us together."

Clay Matthews, who returned an interception 38 yards for a first-half Packers touchdown, said the team will take victory in its stride even after a narrow escape.

"It was the biggest test so far," he said. "We have done a fantastic job of overcoming adversity."

Rodgers threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Greg Jennings 5:10 into the third quarter to give Green Bay an 11-point edge, but Eli Manning answered 3:20 later with a four-yard touchdown pass to Hakeem Nicks, pulling New York within 28-24.

After Lawrence Tynes

kicked a 50-yard field goal to lift the Giants within 28-27, Rodgers flipped a seven-yard touchdown pass to Donald Driver with 3:34 remaining to put Green Bay ahead 35-27.

Manning answered by driving the Giants 69 yards for a touchdown, capping it with a two-yard scoring pass to Nicks with 58 seconds to play, and D.J. Ware ran for a two-point conversion to equalize at 35-35.

The Packers took over and Rodgers, who finished with 369 passing yards, hit passes of 24 yards to Jermichael Finley, 27 yards to Jordy Nelson and 18 yards to Jennings to put Green Bay on the Giants'

12-yard line, setting up Crosby's game-ending kick.

Matt Prater kicked a 23-yard field goal as time expired to give the Denver Broncos a 35-32 victory over Minnesota and their fifth victory in a row.

Denver moved into a share of the AFC West division lead at 7-5 with Oakland, which lost 34-14 at Miami to end a three-game Raiders' win streak.

Baltimore and Pittsburgh stayed even atop the AFC North at 9-3 with triumphs as the Ravens ripped Cleveland 24-10 while Pittsburgh routed Cincinnati 35-7.


continued on page 15

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